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contained the official catalogue of the library.

From the entrance hall stairs lead directly to the Widener memorial rooms; one is a reception hall finished in white Alabama marble, the other, finished in carved English oak, contains Harry Widener's library. At the landing in front of the Widener rooms the main stairway divides and leads on each side to the second floor. Here, occupying the whole front of the building, is the main reading room. This room, together with the periodical room adjoining it at the west end, has seats for 292 readers. At the east end, opening both from the hall and from the reading room, is the delivery room where the public card catalogue is placed.

On the third floor, which rests on top of the stacks, are thirty-four rooms used for some of the special libraries, for seminary rooms, and for studies. There is also a large room for the library's collection of maps. Among the special libraries accommodated here are the Child memorial, the Lowell memorial, the French, German and Sanskrit, the mathematical, and those of the Business School and the Bureau of Municipal Research. The collection of theatrical material recently presented to the library by Robert Gould Shaw, of Boston, is placed in two rooms on this floor.

On the ground floor, on the west side, is a special reading room for elementary work in connection with the courses in history and economics. This has a separate entrance and provides seats for 166 readers. The rest of this floor is used for various working purposes. Below this is a basement, which at present serves mainly to accommodate the machinery necessary to run the building, but will eventually provide storage space for many thousand volumes.

The book-stacks, which run round three sides of the building, comprise ten floors, but for the present the two

lower floors are not to be used and are therefore not equipped with shelving. The capacity of the stacks as at present shelved is about 1,433,000 volumes; with closer shelving and the addition of the two lower floors the total capacity should be about 2,200,000 volumes. Besides this, there is room for several hundred thousand volumes in other parts of the building. A distinguishing characteristic of the stacks is the series of reading-stalls along the sides of the principal floors. There are three hundred of these stalls. In addition to this provision for the comfort of students, there are over sixty small rooms that can be used as private studies for professors or visiting scholars.

These facts are taken from a brochure, prepared by Mr. A. C. Potter, assistant librarian, which gives an interesting history of the library and an account of its collections. In 1638, Harvard College received three hundred and seventy books—mostly theological—bequeathed to it by John Harvard. In the course of a hundred and fifty years the library increased to 13,000 volumes. Since then it has grown in a geometrical ratio, doubling about each twenty years, until now the number of volumes is 675,000.

SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

WE record with regret the deaths of Orville Adelbert Derby, chief of the geological survey of Brazil; of Carl Axel Lundin, maker of many of the largest telescopes in the world; of Raphael Meldola, professor of organic chemistry in the University of London, and of Dr. Henry Charlton Bastian, the distinguished London neurologist, the author also of books on the origin of life.

SIR J. J. THOMSON, Cavendish professor of physics at Cambridge, has been elected president of the Royal Society, in succession to Sir William Crookes.